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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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BALTIMORE CRACK COCAINE RING INDICTED

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today the unsealing of a 12-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 3, 2003 charging Gregory Lamont Wilson, age 30, of Catonsville, Maryland; Edwin Lloyd Murray, age 22, of Cockeysville, Maryland; Derrick Powell, age 21, of Cockeysville, Maryland; James Bernard Wilder, age 28, of Baltimore, Maryland; Andre Lamont Clark, age 35, of Catonsville, Maryland; Mark Devon Halley, age 23, of Baltimore, Maryland; and William Franco Heggins, Jr., age 24, of Baltimore, Maryland, with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and cocaine hydrochloride in the Randallstown area of Baltimore County and elsewhere since September 2002.

The indictment alleges that over 9 months the defendants acquired more than 5 kilograms of cocaine and 50 grams of crack cocaine for resale. The indictment further alleges that the defendants used different apartments in the Baltimore metropolitan area to prepare and secrete their drugs and to store firearms, drug paraphernalia and proceeds derived from drug sales.

On July 9, 2003 Wilson, Powell and Heggins were taken into custody after law enforcement agents executed search warrants at thirteen locations in the Baltimore metropolitan area. Powell's

detention hearing is scheduled at 10:30 a.m. today, and Heggins' and Wilson's detention hearings are also scheduled today for 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., respectively. Andre Lamont Clark is currently in custody in Prince George's County, Maryland awaiting trial on related state drug charges. The other three defendants have not yet been apprehended.

The defendants face a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, a maximum life sentence and a \$4 million fine as to the conspiracy count. The indictment also charges Wilson, Murray, Clark and Heggins with possession of firearms in furtherance of their drug trafficking scheme, a charge that carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years imprisonment and a maximum of life imprisonment, consecutive to any sentence imposed for the conspiracy charge.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Baltimore County Police Department, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Baltimore City Police Department, the Maryland State Police, the Harford County Sheriff's Department and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Martin Clarke and Charles Peters.